

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Craig R. White

Serial No.: 09/977,687

Filed: October 16, 2001

Docket No.: 10011785-1

Title: CENTRALIZED BILLING CREDIT SYSTEM UTILIZING A PREDETERMINED UNIT OF USAGE**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 3, 4, and 22 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 7, and 25 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic transaction recording system for accumulating data from a printer device ~~having an owner and a user~~, the system comprising:
 - a billing policies database which includes billing policies for a printer device having an owner and a user;
 - ~~a billing manager which manages billing policies for the printer device~~
 - a billing manager which is implemented by a processor, coupled to the billing policies database and the printer device, and uses at least one of the billing policies to determine a cost of each operation performed on the printer device;
 - a billing system which accumulates information on usage of the printer device by the user, generates an accounting of usage based on the information, and associates the accounting of usage with a predetermined unit of usage; and
 - ~~at least one~~ an account records database which stores account information of the user of the printer device in terms of the predetermined unit of usage;
 - wherein the billing system periodically updates the account information of the user of the printer device and issues an accounting of costs to the user of the printer device, ~~[[and]]~~
 - wherein the billing system credits the owner of the printer device an amount corresponding to the predetermined unit of usage of the printer device by the user, and
 - wherein the billing system accumulates information on usage of the printer device by the owner of the printer device, and only bills the owner of the printer device for net usage of the printer device.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined unit of usage is a token.

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3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a mobile access unit coupled to the billing manager, wherein the mobile access unit indicates content to be printed at the printer device.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the mobile access unit is selected from the group consisting of a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone and a mobile computer.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, further comprising a user configuration unit coupled to the billing polices database for updating and configuring billing polices for new users of the printer device.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the billing system is selected from a back office billing system and an Internet Settlement Model.

9-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a mobile access unit containing content which is to be printed;
wherein the system further comprises a plurality of printer devices connected over a network, wherein each printer device can receive the content from the mobile access unit and print the content in response to an authorization process; and
wherein the billing manager is coupled to each printer device and the mobile access unit for determining an amount of printer usage and associating a predetermined amount of token values with the amount of printer usage.

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22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the mobile access unit is selected from a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone, and a mobile computer.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the mobile access unit transmits using a wireless link.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 22~~ claim 21, further comprising a user configuration unit coupled to the billing polices database for updating and configuring billing polices for new users of the printer devices.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the billing system is selected from a back office billing system and an Internet Settlement Model.